

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As below named inventors, We hereby declare that:

Our residences, post office addresses, and citizenships are as stated below next to our name.

We believe we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent sought on the invention entitled:

MOISTURE-ABSORBING CELLULOSE-BASED MATERIAL AND METHOD FOR MAKING SAME, the specification of which is enclosed.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As the named inventors, we hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and hereby certify that the Government of the United States has the irrevocable right to prosecute this application:

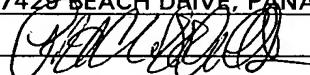
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We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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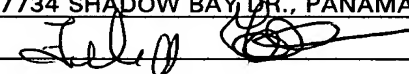
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Inventor's signature 

Date: 1/15/04

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Date: 1/15/04